

Case 3231

STAPHYLINIDAE Latreille, 1804 (Insecta, Coleoptera): proposed conservation of 17 specific names

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is the conservation of 17 specific names that have been in use for many years for rove beetles (family STAPHYLINIDAE). These names are threatened by the limited use of senior (or, in three cases, junior) synonyms. Use of the senior (or, in three cases, junior) names would cause confusion and the matter is submitted to the Commission under Article 23.9.3 of the Code. In the three cases where conservation of the senior synonym (and in one case where conservation of the junior synonym) is necessary, the names being proposed for conservation were junior primary homonyms when published. These names were replaced to prevent homonymy, but the replacement names have not been used widely. The species represented by the homonyms are now placed in different genera and have not been considered congeneric since 1899. This matter is submitted to the Commission in accord with Article 23.9.5 of the Code.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Coleoptera; STAPHYLINIDAE; rove beetles.

1. This paper submits, in accord with Article 23.9.3 of the Code, 14 examples of synonymy in the rove beetles (family STAPHYLINIDAE) for action under the Commission's plenary power to conserve the existing usage of the junior synonym. This would allow the greatest stability in the naming of these staphylinid taxa. In a further three cases, the Commission is asked to consider conservation of the senior synonym. Conservation of the senior name is necessary here because the names being proposed for conservation were junior primary homonyms when published and as such have been replaced. However, the replacement names have not been used widely.

2. The senior and junior synonyms are presented in the form of a table (Table 1). Reference should be made to Herman (2001) for further bibliographic and nomenclatural detail, and evidence of usage, as summarised in Table 1, has been given to the Commission Secretariat. The case is presented to the Commission in accordance with Article 23.9.3 because, even though the names being proposed for conservation are the ones in prevailing usage, they do not meet the conditions of both 23.9.1.1 and 23.9.1.2. As a result, the junior names cannot automatically be protected without a ruling from the Commission.

3. The three senior names, and one of the junior names, that are proposed for conservation were junior primary homonyms when published. The junior and senior homonyms are presented in Table 2, with reasons why their conservation is proposed. The species represented by the homonyms are now placed in different genera and have not been considered congeneric since 1899.

4. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to rule that the specific names in column 2 of Table 1, as originally published in binomina with the generic names indicated in column 2, should be given precedence over the specific names in column 4, whenever they are considered to be synonyms;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
 - (a) the specific names in column 2 of Table 1, as originally published in binomina with the generic names indicated in column 2 of Table 1, with the endorsement, as ruled in (1) above, that they are to be given precedence or priority over the names in column 4 of Table 1, as originally published in binomina with the generic names indicated in column 4 of Table 1, whenever they are considered to be synonyms;
 - (b) the valid specific names in column 4 of Table 1, as originally published in binomina with the generic names indicated in column 4 of Table 1, with the endorsement that they are not to be given priority or precedence over the names in column 2 of Table 1, whenever they are considered to be synonyms;
- (3) to use its plenary power to rule that the specific names in column 2 of Table 2, as originally published in binomina with the generic names in column 5 of Table 2, are not invalid by reason of being junior primary homonyms of the specific names in column 4 of Table 2;
- (4) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the specific names in column 4 of Table 2, as originally published in binomina with the generic names in column 5 of Table 2, except where already listed in (2)(b) above;
- (5) to endorse the specific names in column 2 of Table 2, as originally published in binomina with the generic names in column 5 of Table 2 and placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology in (2)(a) above, that they are not invalid by reason of being junior primary homonyms of the names in column 4 of Table 2 as ruled in (3) above.

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